

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 have been amended and the amendments do not add new matter.

Claim 4 is in its original form.

### **II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 1-6 are rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that independent Claim 1 recited the limitation, “a connector equipped with a valve,” which is also recited in the preamble of the claim. Additionally, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in conformity with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In response to the Examiner’s rejections, Applicant has cancelled Claim 1, and amended Claim 3 to include the limitations of Claim 1. The superfluous inclusion of the limitation, “a connector equipped with a valve,” has been removed from the Claim. Applicant submits that the cancellation of Claim 1 and the corresponding amendment to Claim 3 overcomes the objection under with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

### **III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 2, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kargula et al. (US 6,347,815 B1). In response, Claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 3 has been amended to be in independent form. Further, the Examiner has indicated that claim 3 is allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2 and 6 have been amended to depend on the amended Claim 3. In light

of the cancellation of Claim 1 and the amendment of Claim 3, Applicant submits that this rejection is rendered moot and respectfully requests that it be withdrawn.

**IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

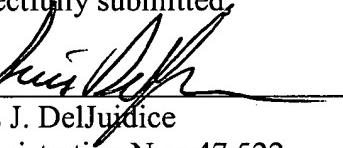
Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kargula et al. (US 6,347,815 B1) as applied to Claims 1, 2, and 6, and in view of Brown (US 4,474,189). Claim 5 has been amended to depend on the amended Claim 3. In light of the cancellation of Claim 1 and the amendment of Claim 3, Applicant submits that this rejection is rendered moot. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections to the Claims be reconsidered and that the amended Claims be allowed.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendment, Applicant submits that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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